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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

25 November 1961

Dear Larry:

Enclosed for your information and file is a memorandum for record of a conference at the White House, 21 November 1961, in which a briefing was given to Chancellor Adenauer and members of his party. The presentation of the briefing was developed by General Taylor, Foy Kohler and Paul Nitze. There were, as you may imagine, many inputs from DoD, the JCS, CIA, etc.

President Kennedy felt that a briefing of U. S. military strength, together with a detailed discussion of that strength, vis-a-vis, capability of Soviet Union, would assist in resolving some of the differences in opinion between FRG and U. S. To what extent this objective was attained no one really knows. However, as you will see from the memorandum for record, I don't believe it changed FRG opinions very much.

You will note that the briefing is designed to do a selling job and hence, I feel certain that you will agree with me that many of the statements are overly optimistic and in many cases overdrawn. Nevertheless, the briefing was cleared by the top officials of State and Defense as being appropriate to the objectives of the conference.

You will also recognize that the briefing contains some very highly classified information which goes far beyond anything that I believe the FRG have been given to date. We had considerable argument about this aspect but in view of the objective it was considered desirable to provide the Chancellor and his party with this information.

As indicated in my message to you, I had to prepare the memorandum for record hurriedly in order to get a copy to you as quickly as possible. In addition, it was very difficult to take notes during the conference and to talk at the same time. Therefore, the memorandum

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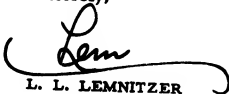
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for record could be more complete but I hope that in its present form it will be useful in providing you with information as to what actually occurred at this high level conference and thus provide you with the necessary background to deal with matters which may stem from this conference and which will probably be discussed with you.

With warm regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



L. L. LEMNITZER  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Lauris Norstad  
Commander-in-Chief  
U. S. European Command  
APO 128, New York, N. Y.

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